

Montana Common Core Standards

Business Leader Fact Sheet

WHAT ARE THE MONTANA COMMON CORE STANDARDS?

The Common Core State Standards are a set of high-quality academic expectations in English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics that define both the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to be on track for success in college and career. They were created through a state-led initiative and have been adopted by more than 40 states, including Montana. The Common Core State Standards will replace our current state standards in English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects, and mathematics.

- The standards establish **consistent** learning goals for all students – regardless of where they live – so that children will stay on track in school when moving from one state to another.
- With a **clear roadmap** of academic expectations, students, parents and teachers can work together toward shared goals.
- The standards are **relevant to the real world**, focusing on the knowledge and skills students will need to succeed in life after high school, in both post-secondary education and a globally competitive workforce.
- A diverse team of teachers, parents, administrators, researchers and content experts developed the Common Core to be **academically rigorous, attainable** for students, and **practical** for teachers and districts.
- The Montana Common Core Standards form a foundation for **literacy instruction** in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects.

IMPLEMENTING THE STANDARDS IN MONTANA

Several efforts are underway in Montana to bring the Common Core into our classrooms.

- Montana has joined the [SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium](#) as a Governing State.
- The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is developing a continuum for the [Stages of Implementation](#) to the [Montana Common Core Standards](#).
- Montana has created a series of webinars that focus on the overview and key content areas within English Language Arts and Literacy as well as Mathematical Practices and Progressions.
- [MCCS Overview](#)
- [ELA – Text Complexity](#)
- [ELA- Writing Highlights](#)
- [Mathematics- Highlights Practices](#)
- [Mathematics Focus and Coherence: Critical Areas and Progression Highlights](#)

WHAT DO THE STANDARDS MEAN FOR ME?

- The Common Core State Standards will boost Montana's long-term economic competitiveness because students will graduate from high school with real-world skills they need to be successful in college and the workforce.
- Rigorous, national standards will enable businesses in Montana to draw from local talent to meet the needs of the continuously evolving workplace.
- The Common Core will cut costs over time by enabling states to share best practices and streamline efforts in related areas, such as assessment development, which otherwise would require a much greater investment in time and resources from each individual state.



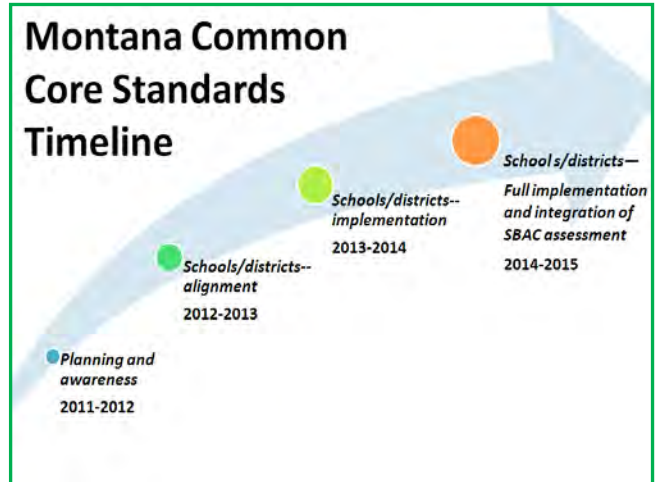
Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

October 2012

WHAT CAN BUSINESS LEADERS DO NOW?

The standards will be fully implemented in Montana by 2015. Business leaders can help lay the groundwork for a smooth transition to the new standards by:

- Becoming educated on the standards and closely following the implementation process as the work unfolds.
- Advocating for the Common Core with Montana's legislators and urging them and the governor to fully support implementation.
- Talking to local principals and superintendents about forming partnerships with the business community to help students be better prepared for careers.



THE ROAD AHEAD ...

- As a fully state-led effort, implementation of the standards is completely in the hands of states and districts. However, many states are taking advantage of the opportunity to work together, particularly by participating in at least one of two coalitions – the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) – to develop assessments that will include summative tests in addition to formative assessments. Montana is a member of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium. New assessments will be in place in 2014-2015 and will replace existing summative assessments in ELA and math.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

- [Official Common Core State Standards Website](#)
- [Montana Common Core Standards-](#) The Office of Public Instruction
- Videos on the Common Core Standards
 - [Common Core State Standards for ELA and Literacy](#) (14 minutes)
 - [Common Core State Standards for Mathematics](#) (14 minutes)
 - [Elementary K-5](#) (14 minutes)
 - [Middle School 6-8](#) (14 minutes)
 - [High School 9-12](#) (14 minutes)
- [SMARTER Balanced Assessment \(SBAC\) Consortium](#)

PRINT YOUR COPIES OF THE MONTANA COMMON CORE STANDARDS

- [Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects](#)
- [Montana Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice and Content](#)



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

October 2012